



FALL 2011



BEAR FACTS

IDAHO CONSERVATION OFFICER NEWSLETTER

From the Chief

For the past 28 years I have met my college buddies each August to go hiking and fishing up high in the Beartooth Mountains of Montana. Hiking out the last day, we came across two backpackers who stopped and engaged us in conversation. Although I have never met them, they looked familiar. They started asking about where we had been and how the fishing was. We were having a good conversation. I finally asked, "Would you like to see my fishing license?" They replied, "We must ooze game warden." "No, I just know what game wardens look like." After everything checked out I introduced myself and one looked at the other and said, "We just checked a chief." In 28 years this was the first time I have been checked by a Montana Game Warden. I kind of enjoyed being checked by a couple of professionals.

I have initiated thousands of similar conversations over my career. My fishing and hiking buddies were a bit speechless. Afterwards they asked me several questions about the contact - the whys, how comes, and what were they looking for. I thought it all rather routine myself. But then, this was probably the first time they have been checked by a game warden.

Fall is here and many of you will be headed to the hills for another hunting season. It is possible that you will also be checked by a conservation officer in the field. You too may wonder what is going on and what are we looking for. Of course a primary reason for our asking is simply to ensure compliance of the hunting rules - do you have your license and tag; is the animal tagged properly; are you within the daily and possession limit. But there is more to the contact. We are interested in your experience - did you see much game, how was your success. Some of the information is anecdotal but can be used by us to help evaluate the season and game populations as we begin making recommendations for next year's seasons not long after this one is over.

And do not forget to ask us a question or two. Another reason for field contacts or check stations is to provide opportunities for us to share information with you.

Have a safe and enjoyable fall hunting season. Remember, if you see someone stealing your wildlife, "Make The Call" by reporting game and fish violations to Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Jon Heggen
Enforcement Chief





Top Ten Common Hunting Violations:

- Possession/transportation of big game without evidence of sex – failure to leave evidence of sex naturally attached to the carcass or largest portion of meat if boned. Refer to page 69, 2011 Big Game Rules.
 - Fail to properly validate and attach tag to big game. Unlawful validation: use of a pen or pencil to color the month and date, or cut a single line through the month or date. For example, refer to page 68, 2011 Big Game Rules.
- Hunters must completely remove two notches indicating month and day of kill.
- Fail to stop and report at a check station. All hunters, with or without game, must stop and report at each check station they encounter during their travel to and from their designated hunting location.
 - Possession/transportation without proxy statement, which is required to transport wildlife taken by another person. For example, refer to page 69, 2011 Big Game Rules.
 - Shoot from or across public highway. This is a public safety issue for both the shooter and other people traveling on the highway.
 - Hunt/take closed season. It is the hunter's responsibility to know season open and close dates, hunt boundaries, which species is open for hunting, and what sex may be taken.
 - Wrong Class License. It is unlawful for any person to purchase and possess a license of the wrong class. Refer to page 93, 2011 Big Game Rules, for residency requirements.
 - Purchase license/tags while hunting, fishing or trapping privileges are revoked. Idaho is a member of the Wildlife Violator Compact and a revocation in any member state may result in loss of privileges in all member states. (IDFG website link for member list: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/enforce/?getPage=206>)
 - Transfer of license and/or tag to another. Party hunting or killing an animal for somebody else to put their tag on is illegal.
 - Trespassing on cultivated lands or in violation of warning signs. No person shall enter the real property of another and shoot any weapon or enter such property for the purposes of hunting, retrieving wildlife, fishing or trapping without the permission of the owner or person in charge of the property.

ASA's and Check Stations - Tools Used to Detect Wildlife Crimes

A reminder to hunters!

In areas where the Department receives complaints of spotlighting, trespass or other unlawful activity, enforcement officers may utilize artificial simulated animals, commonly called ASA's, which are life-like specimens of deer, elk, and other game species, to detect unlawful activity.

The use of this tool has reduced illegal hunting activities.

Many of the citations issued to road hunters who violate game laws include spotlighting, trespassing, shooting from a motorized vehicle, shooting across the road and waste of game. The penalties for shooting an ASA can include a license revocation, fine up to \$1000 and/or jail sentence up to six months.

Check stations are another tool officers use to detect wildlife crimes and biologists use to gather harvest and other biological data. Idaho sportsmen take pride in their



knowledge of hunting and fishing techniques and safety practices, but there is one basic rule that is sometimes overlooked. According to Idaho Code, “no fisherman, hunter or trapper shall refuse or fail to stop and report at a wildlife check station encountered on his route of travel when directed to do so by personnel on duty. Such direction may be accomplished by signs prominently displayed along the route of travel indicating those persons required to stop.” The law doesn’t require only those with fish or game in possession to stop; it requires all those who are traveling to or from a hunting, fishing or trapping outing to stop.

Each year, a few sportsmen fail to stop at check stations when they were not successful on that specific trip. They see the signs, but think the instructions don’t apply to them and continue on their way. Occasionally, citations are issued for the failure to stop.



Please stop in at every check station you encounter as you travel to or from hunting and fishing outings. It usually takes just a few minutes. The information you provide is important to successful management of the wildlife resource we enjoy in Idaho.

Citizens Against Poaching - Celebrating 30 Years of Catching Poachers

The Citizens Against Poaching (CAP) program was started in December 1980, receiving its official charter in January, 1981. The organization was established by concerned individuals under the guidance of Idaho Fish and Game.

During the 30 year history CAP has been an important link to catching poachers. Annually CAP receives 600

calls, which result in 150 citations issued and \$20,000 paid in rewards.

Concerned citizens who choose to “Make The Call” are instrumental in catching poachers stealing game and fish from Idaho’s citizens. The process is simple and direct, and you can remain anonymous. Dial 1-800-632-5999 to “Make The Call” today!



Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

Thirty-six states including Idaho have entered into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked by any of the Compact member states, it may result in the loss of privileges in all member states. In addition, any nonresident who does not satisfy the requirements of an Idaho citation will have his or her hunting and fishing license revoked in their home state until those requirements are satisfied. For information on the Compact and a list of member states, go to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Arrest Digest

Panhandle Region

The North District conducted a high mountain lake emphasis this summer for enforcement purposes and fisheries data. The high mountain lake surveys netted a few citations but not a lot.

The South District patrolled the Coeur d’Alene River heavily this summer and found a few people who were illegally harvesting cutthroat trout.

Clearwater Region

Regional Conservation Officer Mark Hill, District Conservation Officer Barry Cummings and Senior Conservation Officers John McClain and Eric Crawford participated in a spotlight patrol Saturday night/Sunday



morning. A few lights spotted but we couldn't seem to get on them in time. There will be several more of these district patrols throughout the season and we learn from each one. Thanks to Crawford for the effort put forth to get it organized. In all that we do, this was time very well spent.

Senior Conservation Officer Rick Cooper is working a great off-road violation on Craig Mountain with trail camera footage. My guess is that word will get out that there are cameras on some of the closed roads and maybe some of the activities will slow down or cameras will come up missing. This week Cooper worked with Conservation Officer Kyle Christopher on Christopher's first wrong class license investigation. Cooper also took the wildlife folks up Hells Canyon to recover a sheep collar above (and we do mean way above) Sand Creek. See the attached photo of the Snake River and



our patrol cabin at Sand Creek. Cooper reports the climb in the heat was not an easy one. Cooper and Christopher helped the county this past weekend with the jet boat races on the Snake River and responded to deer shot on Matson Cutoff Road above Culdesac.

Senior Conservation Officer Mike Dafoe received a call from a local volunteer last Thursday with some information and recognized a connection from a call of shots fired late Sunday evening. By Friday afternoon we had a search warrant in hand and Regional Conservation Officer Mark Hill, District Conservation Officer Barry Cummings, and Conservation Officers Mike Dafoe and Eric Crawford served it. The two suspects drove in the driveway when we were about finished with the search and Hill and Cummings obtained confessions. Great closed season deer cases. Cummings cited the same two violators in 2007 for big game violations.

Justin Whitten and his girlfriend tried to check in three bears at Moscow Hide and Fur. Employees noticed a tag was purchased on May 24 and validated for May 20. They questioned Whitten about it, and he became nervous and left. Later that evening Whitten checked the bear in at Far West Leader Taxidermy in Riggins. Moscow Hide and Fur notified the department of the situation. Subsequent interviews showed that Justin Whitten killed the bear in October 2010 and put his girlfriend's tag on it. He then forgot about the 10 day check-in period. This spring he wanted to sell the bear hide so he made up a story of how his mom, Barb Endicott, purchased a tag, went mushroom hunting with Linnea Sohrakoff, and then shot a bear. Endicott put the tag she purchased on Whitten's bear. Sohrakoff backed Endicott's story in writing. Whitten went to Moscow to check the bear in and sell it as Endicott's. Moscow Hide and Fur didn't check the bear in, so he returned to Riggins and checked it in at Far West Leader Taxidermy. Whitten, Endicott, and Sohrakoff were cited and plead out.

Justin Whitten received \$1,000 in fines, probation for 4 years, 90 days in jail - 75 suspended, suspension of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for 6 years, and he can reapply to the court in 3 years to get his license privileges back. He was cited for 5 charges:

1. Fail to validate bear tag
2. Use tag of another on the bear from 2010
3. Criminal conspiracy with Barb Endicott and Linnea Sohrakoff
4. Use tag of Barb Endicott on bear trying to check it in Spring 2011
5. Fail to comply with 10 day check-in period on the bear

Barbara Sue Endicott, Justin's mom, received \$500 in fines, probation for 2 years, 30 days in jail suspended, hunting and trapping privileges suspended for 3 years (not fishing), and she can reapply to the court after 18 months to get her license privileges back. She plead to transfer of tag and obstruction.

1. Transfer of bear tag to Justin Whitten
2. Criminal conspiracy with Justin Whitten and Linnea Sohrakoff
3. Obstruct and delay officers



Linnea Sohrakoff was fined \$400 for obstruction, received 10 days in jail suspended, and probation for 2 years. She does not hunt.

1. Criminal conspiracy with Justin Whitten and Barb Endicott
2. Provide false report to officers

Southwest Region

Senior Conservation Officers Matt O'Connell and Rob Brazie went north to help patrol the salmon fishing season in Riggins along the Little Salmon River and on the South Fork Salmon River. While overall compliance was good, they still managed to find violations.

After receiving two lifetime hunting license revocations for wildlife crimes committed in Valley County in 1997, a Boise man began buying hunting licenses and deer tags in 2006, and harvested two bucks between 2007 and 2009. In the fall of 2010, Senior Conservation Officer Matt O'Connell filed nine charges against the suspect, including several counts of purchasing a license while revoked and purchasing the wrong class of license. The suspect pled guilty to four counts in August, and Ada County Magistrate Kevin Swain assessed fines and court costs of over \$2,300.00, another lifetime hunting ban to include all compact states, eight years of probation and had the suspect physically arrested and put into the Ada County jail to begin serving a 90 day sentence.

After observing and videotaping a man using a snorkel mask and a homemade "Hawaiian sling" spear gun device to pursue kokanee salmon in Mores Creek, Senior Conservation Officer Matt O'Connell intervened and



cited the man for spearing fish. The Boise man lost his fishing privileges for one year and was fined over \$300 in Boise county court. The ingenious spear gun and snorkel mask were seized as evidence.

Senior Conservation Officer Bob Sellers and other officers set up two check stations for fishermen boating the South Fork Boise River below the Anderson Ranch Dam. This stretch of water is regulated to flies and lures only, bait is prohibited and all hooks must be barbless. There were numerous citations and warnings issued for no fishing licenses and for using barbed hooks.

McCall District officers and a few officers from the Nampa and Boise districts were occupied with salmon season issues such as: anglers keeping fish without evidence of a healed adipose scar, snagging and transferring fish to others.

While checking anglers on Hell's Canyon Reservoir in early July, Senior Conservation Officers Rusty Anderson and Randy Martinez were nearly run into by an individual who was highly intoxicated. This person was a clear danger to himself and the public, so the conservation officers detained him and with the assistance from an Adams County deputy arrested him for DUI, open container, and failing to purchase a driver's license.

Senior Conservation Officers Kevin Primrose and Randy Martinez began an investigation when they learned about a big bull elk killed during the fall of 2010 in the New Meadows area. Primrose, with the help from a probation officer, recently charged two local men with the unlawful killing of the bull elk, unlawful possession, transfer of tag, and hunt without an elk tag. One of the individuals has plead guilty and received a \$1,250.00 fine, one year hunting revocation, four days jail served, and forfeiture of the elk antlers. The second individual is scheduled for trial.

All Payette District officers worked local and mountain fisheries for license and bag compliance.

Senior Conservation Officer Ben Cadwallader investigated many unlawful bear baits.



Magic Valley Region

Senior Conservation Officer Greg Milner saw an unlawful elk case concluded in Lincoln County from September 2010. Four suspects were charged on 16 total violations ranging from waste to trespass to use of a firearm during an archery season. Plea agreements are still being negotiated.

Senior Conservation Officer Jim Stirling investigated a report of dogs chasing antelope near Twin Falls. According to witnesses both dogs saw the antelope and the chase was on. The big dog (sheepdog) caught a small buck at a fence and took it down revealing bite/chew marks on the rump and heavy bruising/bleeding on the neck. Stirling did not shoot the dogs but issued the owner a written warning.

Senior Conservation Officer Meghan Roos went to trial on a trapping case on a long time local trapper involving 2 counts of failing to check his traps every 72 hours. The defendant was convicted and received a three year trapping revocation.

Southeast Region



On November 11, 2010, Senior Conservation Officers Tyler Peterson and Marc Porter began working a CAP hotline call regarding a wasted elk carcass found near McCammon.

The CAP informant had also found a validated resident regular deer tag issued to Brandon James with the wasted elk carcass

Investigation revealed that Mr. James had purchased a duplicate deer tag on October 9th signing an affidavit swearing he had lost his original deer tag - the same original deer tag that was now in the officer's possession validated for October 16th and covered with blood.

A search warrant was served on the residence of Brandon James located near McCammon. While serving the search warrant, the duplicate tag issued on October 9th was found on the wasted hind quarters of a second deer. The tag was validated for October 23rd. See attached photo.

The search warrant on the James' residence yielded 14 violations of Fish and Game rules and regulations committed by James: one felony for offering a false or forged instrument for record,



ten misdemeanors and three infractions of big game and trapping rules and regulations. Brandon James admitted to killing two deer using the duplicate deer tag to "cover" the second deer. James' father was found to be the one who had wasted the elk hind quarters.

Brandon James pled guilty recently at the Bannock County courthouse receiving fines, penalties and court cost of \$ 1,915.50. James was also sentenced to 5 years of probation, 120 days of jail suspended and 100 hours of community service suspended. What will get James' attention the most is the suspension/revocation of his hunting and trapping privileges for 7 years in Idaho and the other 35 states in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The two CAP informants both received rewards for calling the CAP hotline.

Upper Snake Region

On August 3, 2011, Chase Putnam of Victor plead guilty in Judge Keith Walker's Fremont County Court to illegally guiding fishermen in Idaho. Putnam is a licensed guide in Wyoming but is not a licensed guide in Idaho. In June, Putnam floated two anglers down the Henry's Fork in exchange for \$300, which is about half the price of a legitimate trip. Illegal guides can charge cut rates because they do not have to cover any of the overhead costs that a legitimate outfitter has to cover; such as insurance and licenses. Illegal fishing guides fly in the face of the outfitters and guides who follow all the proper rules and procedures. These rules ensure that Idaho's resources are properly used. The state allows a limited number of outfitters and their boats to be on a particular stretch of river at a time. This ensures that a river is not overrun and exploited with commercial trips and keeps the high quality of Idaho's fisheries intact providing quality fishing experiences for both guided and private fishing trips.



The terms of Putnam's plea agreement were as follows:

- \$1,000 criminal fine plus court costs
- \$1,618.27 in restitution to the state of Idaho
- 30 days of jail suspended
- 2 years of unsupervised probation during which Putnam is not allowed to fish in the state of Idaho

It is also illegal in Idaho to hire an unlicensed guide, and any person convicted of doing so can face the same penalties that the illegal guide faces. It is the responsibility of anyone hiring a guide to make sure the outfitter or guide is properly licensed for the specific area they are going to be hunting or fishing in. In Idaho, the outfitting and guiding industry is regulated by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, a separate entity from the Idaho Department of Fish & Game.

Salmon Region

Beaverhead Zone muzzleloader cow hunt. The cow muzzleloader hunt in Unit 30A southeast of Leadore has been plagued with violations of hunting with motorized vehicles since the hunt began. This year, Senior Conservation Officers Dane Cook and Rick Carlson initiated emphasis patrols in the problem areas. During the opening three days of the hunt and the next Saturday, the officers spent 79 hours working the area. They made a total of 54 contacts and issued nine citations for hunting with the aid of motorized vehicles. While eight of the cases are still being adjudicated, one person has plead guilty and received a \$1,000 fine with \$700 suspended, court costs, and a one year license revocation. If the guilty party completes 16 hours of community service for the Fish and Game Department the license revocation will be reduced to six months.

Wasted elk. Two cases of interest in relation to wasted elk are being worked by officers in the Salmon District. A concerned citizen contacted Fish and Game to report an elk being killed and left by a group of hunters. This concerned citizen watched a group of three hunters shooting at a group of elk. When the elk began to run off across the hill, one of the elk broke away from the herd, slid down the hill, and ended up dead. The citizen assumed the elk was a bull as the only season open in the area was a general bull hunt. When the caller returned the next day the elk was still lying on the hillside. Officers responded to the area and found the elk was

actually a cow and had been left to waste. Through information provided by the caller, officers were able to develop a suspect. This case is still in the adjudication process in Lemhi County Magistrate Court.



In a separate case of wasting game, a concerned citizen called the CAP hotline to report what he thought was a cow elk that had been killed in a bull-only hunt. When an officer responded to the scene, the elk was in

fact a bull, but had only a minimal amount of the meat removed. The rest had been left on the ungutted carcass to rot. Information that had been relayed to another Salmon area officer from a separate source led officers to the person who had killed the bull. This case is also still pending in the court system in Lemhi County.



Closed season buck mule deer.

Salmon officers received a CAP call of a mule deer buck that had been shot after the season had closed. The reporting party said they came upon a person gutting a buck mule deer. They told the hunter the deer season was closed. When they drove by a short time later, they noticed a drag trail down into the brush with the same buck at the end of the trail. Armed with information from the reporting party, officers were able to find the hunter and gain a confession. The case is still pending in Lemhi County Court. The deer was salvaged, and will likely be donated to charity once the case is adjudicated.

Angler Harassment. During the fall steelhead season, a case of angler harassment occurred on the main Salmon River between the towns of Salmon and North Fork. Two anglers who were floating and fishing the river, pulled into the tail end of a popular fishing hole below two other steelhead anglers – a common practice on the river. One of the two anglers at the top of the hole started yelling at the new anglers saying they were at the hole first and to move on. A short time later, the same angler walked down and picked up the anchor of the boat causing it to drift into a tree in the river. The troubled anglers contacted Salmon conservation officers who were able to locate the offenders. Nathan Zito of Billings, Montana, was charged with and plead guilty to “interfering with lawful fishing.” Included in his



sentence was a one year license revocation. Lemhi County Prosecuting Attorney Bruce Withers said that the activity displayed by Zito was not going to be tolerated in this county.



Senior Conservation Officers Andy Smith and Malcolm Clemenhagen discovered a 5-point bull elk submerged in a creek that had been shot with a rifle during an archery-only season while checking camps in the Pahsimeroi River valley. Jeffrey Shields of Pennsylvania was

arrested and charged with taking big game with a firearm during an archery season and possession of game taken unlawfully. The bull had been shot five times with a .300 caliber rifle. Shields lost his hunting privileges for 4 years and received the maximum \$1,000 fine for using a rifle to harvest the elk. Jacob Smith, Michael Kenney, and Richard Parker were also charged with possession of game taken unlawfully, and had their hunting privileges revoked for their roles in the illegal harvest of the bull elk.

Senior Conservation Officer Andy Smith responded to a call of an injured deer in a backyard in Challis. While at that residence, Smith started a conversation with a neighbor that led to the discovery of the carcass of a trophy pronghorn buck that had been dumped in a trash pile inside an outbuilding full of garbage. The buck had been caped (head and horns removed) by a person the neighbor had met at the bar the night before. After several days of investigation and interviews, Smith determined the buck was wasted by a southeast Idaho resident. Senior Conservation Officer Marc Porter responded to the residence of Shawn Austin and seized the head and cape of the trophy buck. For wasting the buck Austin received ten days in jail, five days to be served at the beginning of pronghorn season in 2011 and five days to be served at the beginning of pronghorn

season in 2012. He also had his hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges revoked for three years, received two years of probation, paid over \$2,200 in fines and penalties, and was ordered to retake hunter education.



Senior Conservation Officer Andy Smith received a call from the CAP hotline about two large bull elk that had been shot and had only the antlers taken. Smith determined that the bulls had been harvested by Keith Mott and

Steven Pomrenke and that the meat of both bulls had been wasted. Both were large bulls including a trophy 7x6. Senior Conservation Officers Rich Holman and Matt O'Connell conducted interviews and seized the antlers from the residence of the hunters. Pomrenke and Mott pleaded guilty to wasteful destruction of a bull elk and each lost their hunting privileges for one year.

Senior Conservation Officers Malcolm Clemenhagen and Andy Smith were conducting camp checks and found an untagged deer in a creek with several other deer. While conducting interviews to determine the person responsible for the untagged deer the officers learned that not one but four of the deer in the creek were illegal. The four deer were killed by two individuals that had already filled their own tags and were using the tags of other hunters in their hunting party. One of those individuals had exceeded

the bag limit by three deer. Four hunters were charged for their role in the taking of the illegal deer. Total penalties received by the hunters was 8½ years of license revocation and over \$4,000 in fines and penalties.





Connecting Youth

Clearwater Region

The Grangeville District reports that Saturday, August 13, 2011, was their annual officer/Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsored J.A.K.E.S day. They had about 50 kids registered and an additional 75 parents and younger siblings also attended. The kids attended stations in: critter crafts; hides and horns; survival; .22, archery, and turkey hunting. They also had a turkey shoot on a moving turkey target they had to call in which was the highlight for many of the kids. With a lot of planning and coordination, the event went off without a hitch. They received a pile of comments about the great job our officers did and how supportive the community is as a whole of our efforts. A big thanks to the officers for their help and support of the event.



Southwest Region

Senior Conservation Officer Rob Brazie said he had a great turn out of about 25-30 people for his annual “Wheelin Sportsmen” event in Star. “Wheelin” members, kids and families enjoyed a great day of fishing, good food, and friends.



Senior Conservation Officer Brian Flatter worked the Marsing Fishing Clinic.

All Payette District officers assisted or hosted Free Fishing Day events.

Senior Conservation Officer Paul Alexander made a law enforcement presentation to the Emmett 4H Club. Senior Conservation Officer Craig Mickelson hosted the Breshears fishing event in Marsing.

Senior Conservation Officer Brian Marek mentored youth on kokanee fishing at Anderson Ranch Reservoir.

District Conservation Officer Charlie Justus presented the CAP trailer at the Caldwell Safety Fair.

Magic Valley Region

Senior Conservation Officer Steve Roberts assisted 42 youth and 23 adults learn about fishing at the “kids pond” near Fairfield during Camas Lily Days.

Senior Conservation Officer Greg Milner completed a wildlife presentation to 83 seventh grade students and teachers at the Ice Caves north of Shoshone.

Senior Conservation Officers Rich Holman, Lee Garwood, and Rob Morris assisted with several youth fishing clinics around the region. The clinics were part of the “Take Me Fishing” program utilizing the regional fishing trailer.

Southeast Region

Senior Conservation Officer Tom Burkhart took a neighbor boy, Shane Jensen, turkey hunting in early April. This is a young man who would not have had the opportunity to hunt for turkey had Burkhart not mentored him. Shane killed a really nice Tom and was thrilled!





Officers throughout the Southeast Region have been utilizing the “Take Me Fishing” trailer to encourage and introduce recreational fishing to new anglers while at the same time allowing both young and old novice anglers to meet their local conservation officers. See attached photo of Senior Conservation Officer Nathan Stohosky helping release a young girl’s first bluegill at Johnson Reservoir.



Upper Snake Region

District Conservation Officer Mark Carson and Senior Conservation Officer Josh Koontz were camp counselors and medics at the 2nd annual Idaho Conservation Officers Youth Camp held at the Trinity Pines church camp in Cascade.



Thirty-two young boys and girls, ages 10-12, attended the week-long camp and received instruction on hunter education, outdoor skills, nature hiking, fishing, shooting and even a hair-raising ride through the camp challenge course. I’m not sure who had more fun; the campers or the counselors?



Salmon Region

Senior Conservation Officer Matt Sheppard organized the first-ever youth mentored waterfowl clinic in the Salmon Region which took place on October 7th and 9th. This clinic was set up to include a classroom portion and a hunt portion. Classroom instruction was held at the Salmon regional Fish and Game office on Thursday evening and ran from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This class covered various topics ranging from safety to duck and goose calling. The field day was held on Saturday, October 9, with participants meeting mentors at the regional Fish and Game office at 6:15 am and departing for the Nancy M. Cummings Research Extension and Education Center property (commonly referred to as Hot Springs Ranch). Dr. John Hall, superintendent of the center, graciously offered the many sloughs and ponds exclusively for youth waterfowl hunting. Three youth participants, ranging in age from 10 to 12, along with three mentors and one participant’s father sat in or behind the two blinds that had been set a couple days prior to await legal shooting hours and for the waterfowl to start flying. Mentors for this hunt were Dan Smith, a hunter education instructor from Challis, Senior Conservation Officer Dane Cook and Sheppard.



Senior Conservation Officer Ryan Hilton organized the region’s third youth deer hunt. This year, 18 youth participated. Sixteen of the youth shot deer and, for all but one of them, it was their first deer. Participating landowners were Eagle Valley Ranch, Paul and Dale Edwards, Ben Jones, Kenney Rogers, and Kevin Keller. Mentors included Idaho Department of Fish and Game employees Ryan Hilton, Jim Lukens, Justin Williams,



Tom Curet, Jon Flinders, Dave Ayers, Tessa Gilpin, Jim Juza, Andy Smith, and Malcolm Clemenhagen. Volunteer mentors included Mark Oliverson, Jim Bockelman, Dick Hadlock, and Aaron Gilpin. A special thanks went out to Jim Toynbee and Dick Hadlock for the last minute hunter education class they taught that allowed several of the youth to participate in the hunt.



On Free Fishing Day, June 11, 2011, we conducted a kid's fishing derby at the Challis – Blue Mountain Pond. Senior Conservation Officers Malcolm Clemenhagen, Andy Smith and Corey Taylor all worked with BLM employees to coordinate and run this event. Donations of prizes and food were received from numerous local businesses. There were 105 kids between the ages of 1 and 16 that participated in this event. There were also more than 80 adults that showed up to help the kids and give them support. Prizes were handed out to the kids who caught the biggest fish in four different age classes. The winner of each age class received a rod and reel combination. The kid that caught the overall biggest fish of the contest received a donated replica fish mount of their fish from Riverside Taxidermy. Seven fish were tagged with floy tags and represented a chance at a \$50

savings bond, donated by local businesses. Of the seven tagged fish, six were landed and the savings bonds were given to the kids



that caught the respective fish. Every kid that signed up received a bag of information, stickers and pictures from the USFS or BLM and at least one fishing related item. We also provided hot dogs, hamburgers and water to everyone that was present at the event.

News From the Field

Panhandle Region

Senior Conservation Officer Tom Whalen is starting to emphasize his forte now . . . bull trout monitoring. Several local streams have well-known poaching holes, and Whalen spends a lot of his fall hiking to and watching them.

Senior Conservation Officer Julie McKarley conducted a women's hunting clinic a few weeks ago that was a big success with over 40 women of all ages in attendance.

Senior Conservation Officer Matt Haag is initiating a sportsman's breakfast in Sandpoint for improved relations between the department and the community.

South District officers have been involved in an agreement that has opened 22,000 acres of private land to hunting.

Clearwater Region

We completed a deer drive to try and move 20 deer from the fenced 50-acre Kilgore Orchard in White Bird. The area has a deer proof fence but due to holes and gates left open the crops inside have been clobbered (especially pumpkins, tomatoes and corn). It appeared we got most, if not all, the deer out thanks to volunteers; Senior Conservation Officers Jim Pagel, Roy Kinner, and Chad Wippermann; and the Fischer girls and dogs.

Southwest Region

Twice this month Senior Conservation Officer Matt O'Connell was working on urban bird management. The first was rescuing a juvenile Peregrine falcon that tried to fly from it's nest atop a downtown Boise bank before he was ready. The bird became stuck on a ledge. O'Connell retrieved the bird and returned it to it's nest. The second situation involved geese on the horse racing track. A



goose had actually flown into a horse during a race. The incident could have been tragic for all involved; luckily the jockey and horse were not injured. The goose did die. O'Connell met with race track officials and developed a method for hazing the birds off the track infield prior to the race and then blocking their return during the events.

Black bears, salmon and bull elk poachers. The McCall District conservation officers have been dealing with them all for the last two months. Starting in May, when the late spring reduced food for hungry bears emerging from a long winter, the McCall office has received over 50 complaints regarding black bears. The Valley County Sheriff's office has received an additional number of complaints. The majority of these revolve around bears finding food sources left out by people, such as garbage cans or bird feeders. Senior Conservation Officers Kevin Primrose, Joey Ishida, and Jon Hunter; Regional Wildlife Manager Jeff Rohlman; and front desk staff have spent a tremendous amount of time trying to educate the public that they live or recreate in prime bear habitat and removing these food sources is the only way to coexist with the area's black bears in the long run. Removing the bears is only a solution for the unusual bears that demonstrate aggressive behavior. Black bears will move on if they don't find a food source in your neighborhood.

Magic Valley

Senior Conservation Officers Steve Roberts, Lee Garwood, and Greg Milner participated with regional staff in white pelican surveys at Anderson Ranch, Thorn Creek, and Magic reservoirs.

Senior Conservation Officer Greg Milner trapped and relocated a rattlesnake from the residence of an elderly resident in Shoshone.

Senior Conservation Officer Jeff Day worked with a local landowner to develop a sportsmen access to the Snake River between Glenns Ferry and Hammett. The landowner requested signs asking sportsmen to seek trespass permission. Jeff worked with Landowner Sportsmen Coordinator Brad Lowe to obtain the requested signs.

Senior Conservation Officers Steve Roberts, Andy Smith, and Malcolm Clemenhagen taught a two-day trapping education class at the Magic Valley regional office in Jerome. They certified approximately 20 students and obtained 5 instructor requests.

Senior Conservation Officer Jim Stirling gave a short demonstration and participated in the poster sessions at ISTS with "Pepper" the department's first wildlife detection K9. Jim's video showed Pepper tracking human scent as well as conducting an article search.

Upper Snake Region

Even though it's summer, moose still want a ride when they come to town. These two moose were captured near the Apple Athletic Club in Idaho Falls this summer. They mistakenly believed getting in shape for the fall meant working out at the gym!



Salmon Region

A blow out at Blacks Creek, just below Salmon Falls on the main Salmon River below Corn Creek, created a pool large enough to swallow the well-known Salmon Falls rapid. See before and after picture.

Before:





After:



A second blow out later in the year created a large rapid at Alder Creek, about ten miles below Corn Creek. These two events changed the river dramatically.

Blast From The Past

“I took the opportunity of a somewhat slower than usual May to study and learn a little bit about one of the wildlife species for which Adams County is noted - the black bear. In late April and May, they come out onto open wild onion patches and are easy to observe. In a one hour flight I was able to count 22 bear, 5 of which were within 3 air miles of Council.”

Conservation Officer Fred Edwards, Council, May 1965

In Memory of Steve Agte Regional Conservation Officer 1947 - 2011

